

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 L-03 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3910

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE

REF: (A) ROME 15651

(B) STATE 256397

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL (A), CIVILAVIA'S CONDITIONAL APPROVAL SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE CITED NO RPT NO LEGAL BASIS FOR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OFFICIALLY BY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OF CIVILAVIA DECISION DUE TO ILLNESS OF FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, CIVAIR AFFAIRS) AND ABSENCE OF HIS ASSISTANT, PIETROSANTO.

2. EMBASSY WILL ASK MFA FOR LEGAL BASIS OF CIVILAVIA'S DECISION. ONCE THIS DETERMINED, WE CAN APPEAL CIVILAVIA'S DECISION. THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE BASES FOR CIVILAVIA'S CONDITIONAL APPROVAL AND WE NEED TO DETERMINE STRATEGY FOR EACH: (A) SCHEDULE FILED TOO LATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR WINTER SEASON UNDER PROVISIONS OF (ITALIAN VERSION) ARTICLE 5 OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; (B) SCHEDULE PROVIDES FOR CAPACITY INCREASE; (C) SCHEDULE INCLUDES UNJUSTIFIED CHANGE OF GAGUE. REFTEL (B) ESPECIALLY HELPFUL ON CHANGE OF GAGUE ISSUE, BUT EMBASSY SUSPECTS LATE FILING WILL BE CITED AS BASIS FOR CIVILAVIA ACTION.

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3. IF, ON OTHER HAND, MFA UNWILLING OR UNABLE PROVIDE LEGAL

BASIS EMBASSY HOPES USG WOULD ALSO BE FREE TO IMPOSE UNILATERAL CONDITIONS ON ALITALIA'S WINTER SCHEDULE, SUCH AS REQUIRING OPERATION OF 747S WITH NO MORE THAN 286 SEATS AND NO CARGO TO BE CARRIED ON MAIN DECK.

4. SEABOARD'S LONDON REP BLAKE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT NEXT STEP IS TO DETERMINE LEGAL BASIS FOR CIVILAVIA DECISION.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND BLAKE OF MFA REACTION ASAP.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME15753
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750377-0095
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975105/aaaaaegk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ROME 15651
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE
TAGS: EAIR, IT, US, SEABOARD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006